(b) if so, what is the status of the proposal; and

(c) by when the proposal of the State Government would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines was operating a daily service between Varanasi and Bhubaneshwar with A320 aircraft till August, 1996. However, the Average carriage between Varanasi and Bhubaneshwar was only around 10-12 passengers per flight, which was not sufficient to support economically viable operations. Therefore, the route was restructured to provide non-stop operations between Delhi and Bhubaneshwar, in order to provide a better product to passengers on the Delhi-Bhubaneshwar route. The current traffic potential between Varanasi and Bhubaneshwar is still not adequate to ensure viable operations of the flight.

Allotment of petrol and diesel outlets

†*192. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of petrol and diesel outlets allotted in the country from 1st April, 2003 to 30th September, 2004;

(b) the number of petrol pumps allotted in each State and Union Territory; and

(c) whether Government propose to formulate any new policy regarding allotment of petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) During the period 1.4.2003 to 30.9.2004, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have allotted 5,980 retail outlets (petrol/diesel pumps) throughout the country. State/Union Territory-wise details are given in Statement-I *(See* below). In addition, 404 petrol pumps have been set up by the private oil marketing companies, details of which are given in Statement-ll. (See below)

(c) No, Sir. Within Government's broad policy framework, OMGs have laid down their respective guidelines for the selection of dealers for retail outlets and the allotment of dealerships to selected candidates.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

*Number of retail outlets allotted in the country by the public sector oil companies during the period from 1.**4.**2003 to 30.9.2004*

State/Union Territory	Number of retail outlets allotted
Arunachal Pradesh	10
Andhra Pradesh	559
Assam	60
Bihar	206
Chhattisgarh	108
Goa	13
Gujarat	303
Haryana	274
Himachal Pradesh	79
Jammu & Kashmir	63
Jharkhand	85
Karnataka	329
Kerala	358
Madhya Pradesh	340
Maharashtra	587
Meghalaya	35
Mizoram	7
Manipur	7
Nagaland	7
Orissa	175
Punjab	550
Rajasthan	336
Sikkim	6
Tamil Nadu	542
Tripura	5
Uttar Pradesh	555
Uttaranchal	66
West Bengal	246
Chandigarh	1
Delhi	33
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5
Daman & Diu	3
Pondicherry	27
TOTAL:	5,980

Statement-ll

Number of retail outlets set up by the private oil marketing companies

State/Union Territory	Number of retail outlets set up by the Reliance Industries Limited	Number of retail outlets set up by the Essar Oil Limited	Total
Andhra Pradesh	32	3	35
Bihar	1	0	1
Gujarat	55	39	94
Haryana	6	11	17
Jharkhand	2	0	2
Karnataka	17	5	22
Kerala	2	0	2
Madhya Pradesh	7	10	17
Maharashtra	32	49	81
Orissa	2	0	2
Punjab	17	16	33
Rajasthan	24	13	37
Tamil Nadu	19	5	24
Uttar Pradesh	18	7	25
West Bengal	9	0	9
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	i 0	3	3
TOTAL :	243	161	404

Development of tourism in North-Eastern States

†*193. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the places identified and developed by Government for encouraging tourism in North-Eastern States during last three years; and

(b) the scheme formulated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Tourist places identified in consultation with

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.